

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, February 25, 2008 at 4:30pm at City Hall in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Present at said meeting were Garnet Peck, Paula Woods, Mike Dana, Karen Springer Mary Nauman and Attorney John Sorensen. Joe Payne, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, Lee Booth, and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Council members Ann Hunt & Gerald Thomas were also present. Absent was Council member Gerry Keen and Pennie Ainsworth.

Garnet convened the Board at 4:30pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting. Paula motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Superintendent** – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.

**Assistant Superintendent** – Chris reported in Pennie's absence on the following:

- Softball planning has begun. Information has been mailed. Men's League will accept the first eight paid teams. The Coed League will take the first thirty-six paid teams. The Coed League will have a rules meeting on Monday, March 17, 7:00pm, at City Hall.
- Global Fest will be held on Saturday, August 30.

**Parks** – Lee reported on the following:

- Inspections for the trails and playgrounds noted.
- Re-mulching Celery Bog trails.
- Continuing with painting of Morton classrooms.
- Preparing equipment for the summer season.
- Snow removal as needed.
- Removed deteriorating shelter # A in Happy Hollow Park.

**- Recreation** – Chris reported on the following:

- The fifth Annual Dare to Bear Polar Bear skate was held Friday, February 8, from 7:00-8:30pm. Papa John's generously donated free pizza for the skaters wearing swim attire. One-hundred sixteen skaters braved the cold. This year's theme was pirates – Polar Bears of the Caribbean.
- Group ice skating lessons were completed February 16. Sixty-six children ages 5-13 participated in group lessons. Instructors have also kept busy teaching private and semi-private lessons.
- This Sunday, March 2, will be the last day for ice-skating at the Riverside Skating Center. The regular season at the Skating center is from the Friday after Thanksgiving through the first weekend of March.
- The grade school basketball program has been completed. One-hundred four children in second, third, and fourth grade enrolled in the program. Greg Tudor coached the second and third grades. West Lafayette High School eighth graders were volunteer assistant coaches. The assistants were as follows: Cassie Anderson, Jessica Bernard, Sarah Burns, Sarah Warren, Maddie Wojtalewicz, Robbie Field, Nick Moody, Ben Waters, and Jake Weiss.

- We have accepted some summer employment applications.

**Morton Center** – Brenda reported on the following:

- Day of the Dance was held at Tippecanoe Mall this past Saturday. Cloggers and belly dancers from Morton's classes participated. We also have been renting weekly to a tap group that performed that day.
- The first planning meetings for this year's Art on the Wabash and Global Fest are this week.
- Currently working on the publicity and programming committee for the Coalition for Living Well after 50 group. The group is planning an Active Living Day for May 14. In the past, the event has been held at Riehle Plaza. This year it will be held at Columbian Park. The maintenance staff is still finishing some painting projects for Morton between snowfalls. We appreciate their hard work.

**Old Business**

**West Lafayette Athletic Booster Club**

Joe presented a Letter of Understanding signed by Mark Leslie with the West Lafayette Athletic Booster Club. It states they are committing \$16,000.00 of their funds to acquire and install a shelter structure at Cumberland School for the tennis program. It specifies that we (West Lafayette Parks & Recreation) are providing a one-time contribution of \$8,000.00 to the Booster Club to assist in the purchase and installation of the shelter. The West Lafayette School Corporation will provide insurance and future maintenance for the shelter. Mike motioned to approve the Letter of Understanding with the West Lafayette Booster Club as proposed. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Farmers' Market Grant Coordinator**

Joe presented and requested approval of a Professional Services Proposal from Kathleen Mills. The City applied for a USDA Farmers' Market Promotion Program Grant, and was awarded a \$38,000.00 grant for the 2008 & 2009 Farmers' Markets. The Professional Services Proposal lists Kathleen Mills as the consultant for Sagamore West Farmers' Market Promotion Program coordination, per the agreement for the grant. It includes of \$2,500.00 for 2008 and \$2,550.00 for 2009. Mike motioned to approve the Professional Services Proposal for Kathleen Mills as the USDA Farmers' Market Promotion Program Grant Coordinator for the awarded 2008-09 \$38,000.00 grant. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**West Lafayette Pony League**

Joe distributed information regarding estimated costs for the development of the Pony League field in Cumberland Park, noting Pony League will be requesting KCB TIF funding from the Redevelopment Commission. Discussion followed regarding the estimated costs presented. Mike motioned support and approval for Phase I and Phase II of the development, without the inclusion of the lighting option, provided funds are available through the Redevelopment Commission. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**New Business****West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Naming Opportunities**

Garnet proposed naming one of the unnamed facilities to recognize a very dedicated Park Board member who recently stepped down, Leon Trachtman. Garnet presented background information. Discussion followed, and the Park Board members felt this was also an opportunity for recognizing Garnet Peck's contributions to this community through West Lafayette Parks & Recreation. The Park Board members arrived at a consensus to name Dubois Park (located on Dubois Street in University Farm subdivision) as Peck-Trachtman Park. Mike motioned to approve the official naming of Dubois Park as Peck-Trachtman Park in honor of Garnet Peck and Leon Trachtman for their dedicated years of service to the West Lafayette Board of Parks & Recreation. Mary seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**West Lafayette School Board**

- During the School Board meeting on February 6, the Board appointed Dan Walbaum as the new Assistant High School principal, following Bob Troyer's retirement.
- Additions to Cumberland Elementary school are planned. The board has been working on the state mandated full-day kindergarten to be implemented by 2009. A bond for \$1.7 million is planned to add five classrooms, a computer lab, and possibly some restrooms. A pod is being planned adjacent to or near the new gym.
- The board presented their request for the additions to Cumberland School to the State Tax Control Board last Thursday. The request was approved, and the process will continue with the preparation of construction documents, etc.
- Happy Hollow School and the West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School both received four-star school ratings for the last school year. They were the only two schools in Tippecanoe County to receive this distinction. The award is based on academics and attendance. Cumberland School just barely missed receiving the award, not for academics, but for attendance.
- The West Lafayette Schools Education Foundation is pleased to accept their largest donation to date, \$200,000.00 from a 1947 West Lafayette graduate, Dr. J. W. & Eleanor Lang, who reside currently in Carmel, IN. The money was donated to establish a starter scholarship for West Lafayette schools.
- Every two years there are school board elections. Four seats are currently up for election. There are only four seats that have been filed, so it is an uncontested race. Continuing will be incumbent, Diane Sauter, Roland Winger, Kathy Anderson, and newcomer Andrew Waters, who will join the board July 1.
- At the board meeting, the donations from the West Lafayette Athletic Booster Club and West Lafayette Parks & Recreation for a new tennis shelter were accepted. The board thanks everyone for their contributions and help with the new tennis shelter.

**Wabash River**

Paula noted there was not anything new from the Wabash River Parkway Commission to report. Mike mentioned the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Executive Committee met last Friday.

**Other****Introduction of Gerald Thomas**

Ann Hunt introduced Gerald Thomas as a new Council Member At-Large, and Council representative. Joe added that Gerald was one of original founding members of the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation, noting he has quite a bit of history with parks & recreation.

**America in Bloom**

Ann Hunt noted the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette are applying to the America in Bloom program. It is hopeful that funding will come from one of the downtown business groups. An important project, it will encompass seven or eight areas, including historical, landscaping, tidiness, and a variety of other issues.

More information is available on the website: [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org)

**Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance**

Chris presented information regarding dates and times of play, March 17-May 18. Games will begin on April 5. There will be two weekends where Sunday games will be needed, April 13 & April 20. They would also like to request April 27, May 19 & 23 as backup dates in the event of bad weather. Chris noted all aspects of the contract are the same as in years past. Mike motioned to authorize approval of entering into agreement with Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance as presented. Mary seconded, and the motion carried.

**Projects & Playgrounds**

Joe distributed a spreadsheet on projects for the department and an information sheet regarding playground equipment. The information will be revised periodically.

**Zamboni Sponsorship**

Joe thanked Lafayette Life Insurance Co. and PEFCU for their continued sponsorship of \$500.00 each for the Riverside Skating Center Zamboni. Both organizations recently renewed their sponsorship and we will be updating the Zamboni sponsor signs using new logos.

**Take a Tour of West Lafayette's Trails!**

Joe distributed a copy of a trails article that the Central Indiana Bicycling Association and a couple of state government representatives encouraged him to provide for the CIBA newsletter.

**Pay Claims**

Paula motioned for claims to be paid. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm. Paula motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mary seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary